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NEWTON ABBOT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1951.

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H. M. DAVIES.
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
ASHBURTON U.D.C.
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.

TELEPHONE No. 713/6

COUNCIL OFFICES,
KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD,
NEWTON ABBOT.

NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1951.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st. December, 1951. In general the state of the health in the Urban District remains satisfactory and the vital statistics in this report give figures which are not much different from those for England and Wales and the Administrative County of Devon.

Two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were reported in the Urban District during the year. One in respect of a visitor who must have contracted the disease before coming to Newton Abbot and the other in a child at the Polish Hostel at Stover. This low incidence was to be expected after the high incidence of Acute Poliomyelitis in 1950 when sixteen cases occurred.

The severe outbreak of Measles was not unexpected. It is characteristic of this disease to assume epidemic form in alternate years.

It is many years since a case of Diphtheria as reported. The need for immunisation against Diphtheria persists and it is as essential as ever if this Infectious Disease is to be kept on check.

On three occasions unpasteurised milk sold in this area was found to be infected with bovine tuberculosis. Immediate action was taken to see that all milk from the infected source was heat treated before being sold. The

infected cattle were isolated and destroyed. Bovine tuberculosis is a disease that can be eradicated from the country by the elimination of infected cows from the milk producing herds. This elimination will take some years to complete but all practical steps should be taken immediately to encourage this end. As an additional and alternative safeguard one cannot recommend too strongly the consumption of pasteurised milk especially in the case of young children. Properly pasteurised milk may be regarded as quite safe from all the milk bourne diseases.

In three cases action had to be taken to effect the removal of persons 'in need of care and attention'. This is always a most distressing work but with the ageing population and with the freedom of legal obligation on the children of these aged people, cases are liable to become more frequent.

In the statistical parts of this report it will be noted that the Birth and Death rates are calculated as 'Crude' and also as 'Corrected'.

The 'Crude' rate represents the actual figure as obtained by arithmetical proportion.

The 'Corrected' or 'Standardised' rate takes into account the difference in the distribution of the age groups and the proportion of the sexes in Newton Abbot as compared with the rest of the Country. The figure thus obtained gives a truer comparision between the state of affairs in this Urban District as compared with the larger units of population.

I should like to thank the Chairman, Councillors, and all members of the staff for help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,153.
Population Mid - 1951	16,580.
Population 1951 Census	16,393.
Rateable value as at 1st. January, 1951	£. 130,858.
Rateable value as at 31st. December, 1951	£. 132,431.
Product of 1d. rate as at 1st. April, 1951.....	£. 524.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	106	111	217
Illegitimate	3	8	11
	109	119	228.

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population - 13.75
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population - 14.57
Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population
Administrative County of Devon ..... - 13.46
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population
Administrative County of Devon ..... - 14.81
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England
and Wales ..... - 15.5.

STILL BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth rate per 1000 total population ..... - 0.18.
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births-12.99.
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still
births England and Wales ..... -22.9

DEATHS.

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 67.36. It is of interest to note that the average age of all male deaths was 64.62 and for female deaths 69.79. This variance is much greater than is found in England and Wales where the average age for female deaths is only about 2 years higher than that for males.

Male.	Female.	Total.
136	153	289.

Crude Death rate per 1000 total population ..... - 17.43
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population..... - 13.94
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population
Administrative County of Devon .... - 15.45.
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population
Administrative County of Devon .... - 11.74
Death rate per 1000 total population England and
Wales .. - 12.5.

Infant Mortality.
(Death of Infants under One year of age)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year) per 1000 related live births ..... - 30.70
Infant Mortality rate Administrative County of Devon- 27.91
Corresponding rate England and Wales ..... - 29.6.

Neo-Natal Mortality.
(Death of Infants under 4 weeks of age)

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under four weeks) per 1000 related live births ..... - 8.77
Neo-Natal Mortality rate Administrative County of
Devon..... - 19.43.
Corresponding rate England and Wales ..... - 18.8.

Maternal Mortality.

No maternal deaths have occurred during the past year. The Maternal Mortality rate for the Administrative County of Devon is 0.88, six cases having occurred within the County during 1951.

AGE AT DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
Infants under 4 weeks	1	1
Infants under 1 year	2	3
1 -	-	1
5 -	1	1
15 -	2	-
25 -	8	3
45 -	33	29
65 -	43	42
75 and over	46	73
	136	153

Total: 289.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male.	Female.
All causes	136	153
Tuberculosis respiratory	3	3
Tuberculosis, other	-	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	9
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	31
Coronary disease, angina	15	12
Hypertension with heart disease	3	7
c/fwd.	62	72

CAUSES OF DEATH (contd.)

	Male.	Female.
b/fwd.	62	72
Other heart disease	16	23
Other circulatory disease	8	12
Influenza	4	1
Pneumonia	4	2
Bronchitis	11	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Congenital malformations	-	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	22
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	-	1
Suicide	1	1
	136	153.

Total: 289.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	3	4	7
Whooping Cough	34	26	60
Measles	201	196	397
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	2	2
Dysentery	2	2	4
Acute Pneumonia	1	2	3
Gastro-Enteritis	4	-	4
Erysipelas	1	-	1
	246	232	478.

Total: 478.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Twenty-three cases were notified during the year, twelve male, and eleven female, of which fifteen were pul-

TUBERCULOSIS (contd.)

monary and eight non-pulmonary. Of the twenty-three cases notified during 1951 eight - 7 male and one female - were in respect of residents at the Polish Hostel, Stover, six were pulmonary and two non-pulmonary. Details are set out in the following table:-

AGE PERIODS.	CASES.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Infants under one year	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	1
5 -	-	-	1	2
15 -	1	1	1	1
25 -	-	3	-	-
35 -	1	1	-	-
45 -	2	-	1	1
55 -	3	1	-	-
65 and over	2	-	-	-
	9	6	3	5

Total: 23.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE NEWTON ABBOT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit herewith the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1951.

DRAINAGE.

The Supervision of drainage work has involved visits to 74 premises during the year in connection with alterations and additions to buildings and repairs to drainage systems.

206 Tests have been applied and a total of 325 visits made.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

During the year work has been started on a revision of the Factories Register and the statistics in connection with this work are given below :-

1. Inspections.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	No. of written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
i. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority.	17.	34	6	Nil
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority.	55	130	21	Nil
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority.	2	2	Nil	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948 (contd.)

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Found.	Remedied.	Ref. to H.M. Inspr.	Ref. by H.M. Inspr.	Prose-cution.
No. of cases in which defects were found.					
Want of cleanliness. (S1)	1	-	1	-	-
Overcrowding. (S2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature. (S3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation. (S4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors. (S6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences. (S7)					
(a) insufficient	9	1	-	2	-
(b) unsuitable or defective.	19	3	-	3	-
(c) not seperate for sexes.	4	1	-	1	-
Other offences (not relating to outwork)	10	-	10	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION.

Premises in which food for human consumption is stored, prepared and handled have been visited periodically during the year, and conditions in most cases have been found to be satisfactory.

It is anticipated that the Byelaws controlling the handling of food will be in operation at an early date, and although spectacular results are not to be expected, a general lightening up of conditions will follow.

266 visits have been paid in connection with this section of the department's work.

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Meat.

The following table provides details of the results of examination of the animals inspected, the difference between the number of animals killed and the number of animals inspected being due to dressed carcases being brought to the Abattoir :-

	CATTLE: (excluding Cows)	COWS:	CALVES:	SHEEP:	PIGS:
NUMBER KILLED:	1,717	1,002	2,960	9,051	809
NUMBER INSPECTED.	1,717	1,004	2,961	9,065	816
All diseases other than Tuberculosis (i) Whole carcases condemned.	6	11	26	39	8
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	426	511	39	819	81
% of animals inspected affected by disease other than Tuberculosis.	25.46%	51.99%	2.19%	9.46%	10.91%
Tuberculosis only (i) Whole carcases condemned.	16	45	4	0	5
(ii) Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	81	185	1	0	62
% of animals inspected affected by Tuberculosis.	5.65%	22.91%	0.169%	0	8.21%

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Meat.

There has been no abatement during the year of the amount of work carried out at the Public Abattoir which continues in the occupation of the Ministry of Food, and 639 visits have been paid.

I am pleased to again report 100% inspection of animals killed, which necessitates much work outside the normal working hours, including visits on Sundays during certain periods of the year.

The officers of this department continue to carry out meat inspection duties for the area of four other local authorities, namely - Newton Abbot Rural District, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Teignmouth Urban Districts.

The number of animals killed during 1951 was 15,563, namely - 2,721 Bullocks, 2,961 Calves, 9,065 Sheep and 816 Pigs.

Comparisons with the previous two years are as follows :-

	1949	1950	1951
Bullocks	2,403	2,665	2,721
Calves	1,922	2,383	2,961
Sheep	10,587	11,624	9,565
Pigs	329	394	816
	15,241	17,065	15,563

It will be noted that there is a steady increase in the numbers of cattle and calves killed, and a sharp rise in the number of pigs slaughtered. The numerical total is offset by a drop in the number of sheep killed resulting in a slight reduction of income to the Council for the use of the Abattoir.

Ice Cream.

Routine sampling of Ice Cream on sale in the district has been continued, 38 samples having been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for examination. The results of such examinations are as follows :-

	% 1951	% 1950	% 1949
24 - Grade 1	63.16%	42.5%	20%
5 - Grade 2	13.16%	30%	30%
2 - Grade 3	5.26%	22.5%	15%
7 - Grade 4	18.42%	5%	35%

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Unsound Food.

Details of food found on examination to be unfit for human consumption are as follows :-

78 Bullocks carcases and offal.
26 Calf carcases and offal.
41 Sheep carcases and offal.
13 Pig carcases and offal.
169 Bovine heads.
52 Pig's heads.
1 Sheep's head.
1 Calf's head.
2,384 Organs and parts.
1,844 lbs. Beef.
97 lbs. Mutton.
19 lbs. Veal.
19 lbs. Pork.
36 lbs. Corned Beef.
1,026 lbs. Ham.
12 lbs. Corned Mutton.
3 cwt. Pig's Trotters.
14 lbs. Pressed Beef.
11 st. Fish.
65 lbs. Sausage.
94 Swiss Rolls.
7 tins Macedoine.
23 tins Fish.
85 jars Preserves.
6 boxes Cheeses.
3 Fowls.
6 tins Corned Beef.
134 tins Vegetables.
130 tins Milk.
285 tins Fruit.
399 tins Meat.
82 tins Soup.
19 jars Pickles.
3 Jellies.
1 tin Benger's Food.
3 tins Golden Syrup.
3 tins Cocoa.
168 tubs Ice Cream.
1 tin Apple Pudding.
47 lbs. Coconut Fondant.
7 lbs. Fat.
18 Pork Pies.
1 tin Coffee.
1 tin Dessert Pudding.
1 jar Paste.
26 tins Wafer Biscuits.
14 tins Fruit Juices.
2 pkts Cereals.
2 jars Mincemeat.

FOOD INSPECTION (contd.)

Unsound Food.

1 jar Sandwich Spread.
3 jars Patum Peperium.
5 lbs. Cake.
14 pkts. Dates.

In no case was it necessary to formally seize the unsound food, all being voluntarily surrendered for destruction.

HOUSING.

This subject continues to be one of the major problems of the day. 36 new Council houses were occupied during the year, and the number of applications in the files at the end of the year continued to exceed 500, in more than half these cases, accommodation being shared with other families.

The question of the obsolete house still seems no nearer to solution. The income from such property is in many cases, insufficient to pay for major repairs, and there is accordingly no prospect of raising the standard of accommodation in these houses.

The following table gives details in statistical form of housing work carried out by the department :-

Number of dwelling houses inspected for defects -	145
Inspections for this purpose -	398
Informal Notices to remedy defects served -	82
Statutory Notices under Public Health Act served-	2
Section 9 Housing Act, 1936 served -	6
Section 11 Housing Act, 1936 served -	2
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit -	38

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection of house refuse and trade refuse has been maintained.

Refuse Disposal.

Refuse disposal by means of controlled tipping has been carried out at a site adjoining the main Torquay Road, and also at a site at the rear of Forde Road. It is pleasing to report that conditions at both tipping sites have been satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING (contd.)

Salvage.

During the year under review the price paid for waste paper rose until at the peak period £26 per ton was being received for some types of baled waste paper. One result of this rise was the number of waste paper dealers who cashed in and took the cream of the waste paper trade. Despite this the Council received approximately £1,020 for 62¼ tons of waste paper disposed of. By the end of the year there was signs that this position was changing and a rapid fall in prices was imminent.

Approximately 2¼ cwts. of rags valued at £5 was also sold.

RODENT CONTROL.

The functions of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act of 1949 have continued to be carried out by this department.

One employee has been engaged part-time on this work in connection with buildings, land and sewers and the methods recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have been continued.

62 premises have been dealt with involving 134 visits, and two treatments of the sewerage system have been carried out.

STAFF.

During the year Mr. Rodgers terminated his employment with the Council having obtained the appointment of Chief Sanitary Inspector at Barnstaple. His place was taken by Mr. Saunders from Brierley Hill Urban District Council. Miss Davies continued as Clerk in the department, and my best thanks are due to them for the able manner in which their work was carried out.

In conclusion I desire to record my thanks to the members of the Council for the support and consideration given to me during the year, and also to colleagues for the co-operation received from them.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C.E. PETHICK, F.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.